

Harpswell Conservation Commission  
Minutes for Regular Meeting June 16, 2009  
3:00 PM, Municipal Office Building, Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Deirdre Strachan, Anne Perry, Ann Nemrow, Burr Taylor, Tony Barrett

Also present: Carol Tukey (Harpswell Planner). Absent: Don Jones

1. Minutes of the 6-2-09 workshop meeting approved as amended by Deirdre Strachen with added wording concerning bond requirements
2. Old Business: The Cliff Trail was hiked by HCC members Tony Barrett and Mary Ann Nahf who discovered some interesting wildlife. Karina van Dusen has noted that some federal stimulus funding will be available to USGS for flyovers of our region under the auspices of GPCOG, possibly to include some vernal pool mapping?
3. Conservation Education Subcommittee.

A Resolution Regarding Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers in Harpswell is nearly completed and ready to submit to the Selectmen in preparation for possibly placing it on the 2010 Town Meeting ballot. There are precedents for Town resolutions. (eg. Mitchell Field, Iran)

Riparian setback guidelines still need to be discussed by the Commission.

Ongoing projects include collection of data for the HCC website. Carol Tukey is working on including links to this on the Town website where allowable. Ann Nemrow prepared a Land Survey Format to follow when considering easement and acquisition priorities and to assess existing open space. Selectmen could use the format as checkoff on Town properties. She has also prepared a starter list of common native species. Anne Perry will also work on this. Ann Nemrow has also started a BMP for Harpswell landowners and a six-step program for healthy, self-sustaining lawns for landowners. Future plans include a seasonal schedule for the above, alternatives to lawns, a list of landscapers who will follow these BMPs, and some solutions to common lawn problems.

4. Lands Conservation Subcommittee.

Cedar Beach. Deirdre Strachan cited two major issues. 1) Parking. There could be space for 15 diagonally parked cars along Robinhood Rd, a public town owned way. 2) Access. In 2005 easements granted foot access to inhabitants of Harpswell along Cedar Beach Rd to Map 25, lot 164 – beach and island. Next steps: talks with Town Administrator Kristi Eiane regarding how to increase access and parking; talks with abutters about problems and needs; explore parking options, portable toilet facility, use of TPL funds for stewardship and maintenance.

Otter Brook/Hildreth Rd. The concept of using the Hildreth Lot for a demo for conservation agreed to. Sale of surveyed house lot agreed to with ROW for access to back of lot. Setback of 250' at present (not monitored by the codes unless they are notified of infraction), discussed increasing it to 300-350 as required by lay of land. Need to involve all abutting landowners (about 20) on Otter Brook Focus Area in discussion of methods to protect the wetland on their properties and the possibility of selling or donating conservation easements to land along the wetlands. HHLT is in conversation with some landowners in the area.

Long Reach/ Town Lot History and Justification for an Easement:

The Doughty Point Road Parcel (Map/Lot 042-054) is 77.6 acres and was purchased by the Town from Herbert Chase on June 20, 2002. According to Dave Chipman, access to this parcel of land would need to be through the Town Lot. Doughty Point Road is a private road and therefore cannot be used to access the land. At several points, discussions have been held about building affordable housing or public buildings in the area between Doughty Point Road and the Old Town Road near Strawberry Creek. If this happened, a road would be needed or an agreement made with the Doughty Point Road Association for access.

The Town Lot/Recycling Center (Map/Lot 042-070) is 116.7 acres and was purchased/taken by eminent domain from 25 owners for a total cost of \$88,480 on April 13, 1978.

Mountain Road. Le May parcels (Map-Lot 042-004) is 0.65 acres and (Map-Lot 042-072) is 4.7 acres

The Lands Subcommittee listed reasons for an easement on part of this area: scenic and recreational value, protection of water resources, high value habitat, part of larger protected habitat block, and wildlife corridors. Portions most needful of easement: East of the old Town road to Long Reach and the entire length of the Cliff Trail. Future plans are to find costs and funding for survey; present idea to Selectmen; and determine content of easement.

Quahog Bay. Possible causes of pollution include poor circulation, pogie kill, lawn chemicals, boat discharge from anchorage, discharge from boatyards and quarries (Orr's Cove, Brickyard Cove?, Cundys Harbor Rd? Future plans are to ask FOCB's Peter Milholland, Harpswell CEO Bill Wells, and Harbormaster Jim Hayes for more information.

#### New Business

Mary Ann Nahf attended the SRRRI meeting last week where they discussed open space mapping, the Merrymeeting Bike Path, and the Farmland Trust.

Adjourned at 5:00 pm.

#### Next Meetings

Commission. July 7, 3 pm. Workshop; July 21, 3 pm Regular

Education subcommittee. June 23, 3 pm

Lands subcommittee. July 21, 1-3 pm; August 18, 1-3 pm